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crystals present in the dry plaster. This accords well with all the known facts in the case and is furthermore in line with Jameson's observations on the setting of Portland cements. It explains some of the peculiarities of the behavior of retarders though in the matter of that vexed subject but little that is new is brought out. If the subject of the strength, and rapidity of set of the gypsum cements could have been gone into a little and illustrated by tensile strength and other tests it would have added greatly to the value of the book and have aided in defining the sort of situations in which these cements could be used to best advantage. In the form of hard white finish they now dominate the market so far as interior work is concerned but the advisability of using them for wall work in any general way is open as yet to some question. This is particularly true in view of the strength and cheapness of magnesian limes and the availability of non-sulphate cements.

Dr. Grimsley's report is a valuable one, particularly in its technical as distinguished from its geological phases. It will undoubtedly have a large influence on the gypsum industry of the state and is a credit to the vigorous Kansas Survey.

H. F. BAIN.

American Cements. By URIAH CUMMINGS. Pp. 299, 8 vo. Rogers & Manson, Boston. 1898.

In the rapid introduction of Portland cements in this country the importance and value of the Roman cements bid fair to be overlooked. At present there is what the author fittingly nominates a "craze" for quick setting, high testing cements, and the slower setting, cheaper grades are looked upon in many quarters as of very little value. Mr. Cummings' long experience in the manufacture of cement and his wide interest in the subject admirably fit him to discuss it. In this little book he has gathered together much scattered information and has added very much from his own experience. His interpretations of the chemical processes involved in the making and the setting of cements will, doubtless arouse much opposition; particularly in his plea for the magnesian cements, but where so much is uncertain any hypothesis backed with such facts as Mr. Cummings marshals must necessarily receive careful attention. Taken as a whole the book is one of which no one interested in cements and the utilization of our limestones and shales, can afford to remain in ignorance.

H. F. BAIN.